IN THE CLAIMS

1-22 Cancelled

23. (Currently Amended) A condenser microphone comprising a diaphragm and a back-plate, wherein an inner surface of said diaphragm forms a capacitor in combination with an inner surface of said back-plate, said back-plate and/or said diaphragm is/are provided with a number of openings, and said inner surfaces of the back-plate and said inner surface of the diaphragm being provided with a hydrophobic layer, and wherein the static distance between said diaphragm and said back-plate is smaller than 10 μm.

24. (Original) A condenser microphone according to claim 23, wherein at least the inner surfaces of the diaphragm and the back-plate are made from a hydrophilic material.

25. (Original) A condenser microphone according to claim 23, wherein the smallest dimension of each of the openings does not exceed 10 μm.

26. (Original) A condenser microphone according to claim 25, wherein the smallest dimension of each of the openings does not exceed 5 μm.

27. (Original) A condenser microphone according to claim 26, wherein the smallest dimension of each of the openings does not exceed 1 μm.

28. (Original)A condenser microphone according to claim 27, wherein the smallest dimension of each of the openings does not exceed 0.5 μm.

29. (Original)A condenser microphone according to claim 26, wherein the smallest dimension of each of the openings is approximately 3 μm.

30. (Original)A condenser microphone according to claim 23, wherein the hydrophobic layer base material comprises an alkylsilane.

31. (Original)A condenser microphone according to claim 23, wherein the hydrophobic layer base material comprises a perhaloalkylsilane.

32. (Original)A condenser microphone according to claim 23, wherein the static distance between the diaphragm and the back-plate is smaller than 5 μm.

33. (Original)A condenser microphone according to claim 32, wherein the static distance between the diaphragm and the back-plate is smaller than 1 μm.

34. (Original)A condenser microphone according to claim 33, wherein the static distance between the diaphragm and the back-plate is smaller than 0.5 μm.

35. (Original)A condenser microphone according to claim 34, wherein the static distance between the diaphragm and the back-plate is smaller than 0.3 μm.

36. (Original)A condenser microphone according to claim 33, wherein the static distance between the diaphragm and the back-plate is approximately 0.9 μm.

37. (Original)A condenser microphone according to claim 23, wherein the hydrophobic layer has a contact angle for water being between 90° and 130°.

38. (Original)A condenser microphone according to claim 37, wherein the hydrophobic layer has a contact angle for water being between 100° and 110°.

39. (Original)A condenser microphone according to claim 23, wherein the hydrophobic layer is stable at temperatures between -40° C and 130° C.

40. (Original)A condenser microphone according to claim 39, wherein the hydrophobic layer is stable at temperatures between -30° C and 110° C.

41. (Original)A condenser microphone according to claim 23, wherein the hydrophobic layer is stable at temperatures up to at least 400° C for at least 5 minutes.

42. (New) A condenser microphone comprising a diaphragm and a back-plate, wherein an inner surface of said diaphragm forms a capacitor in combination with an inner surface of said back-plate, said back-plate and/or said diaphragm is/are provided with a number of openings, and said inner surface of the back-plate and/or said inner surface of the diaphragm being

provided with a hydrophobic layer having a contact angle for water being larger than 90°, and wherein the static distance between said diaphragm and said back-plate is smaller than 10 μm.

43. (New) A condenser microphone comprising:

a diaphragm;

a back-plate, wherein an inner surface of said diaphragm forms a capacitor in combination with an inner surface of said back-plate, said back-plate and/or said diaphragm being provided with a number of openings, wherein the static distance between said diaphragm and said back-plate is smaller than 10 μm; and

a hydrophobic layer, provided on said inner surface of the back-plate and/or on said inner surface of the diaphragm.